



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR**

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
MAYOR AND BOARD OF HEALTH**

**EMERGENCY ORDER REGARDING PHASE IV GATHERING LIMITATIONS**

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has declared a State of Emergency on March 10, 2020 due to the virus that caused the Coronavirus 2019 (“COVID-19”) pandemic;

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor of the City of Somerville has determined that the threat of COVID-19 poses a present, real and imminent danger to public health, safety, and general welfare of the people of Somerville and as such declared a State of Emergency in the City of Somerville on March 15, 2020;

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts closed non-essential businesses, prohibited gatherings of more than ten (10) people by Order No. 13 on March 23, 2020;

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has implemented a phased reopening plan, and continues to provide adjustments to gathering limits;

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is easily transmitted, especially in group settings, and it is essential that the spread of the virus be slowed to protect the ability of public and private health care providers to handle the influx of new patients and safeguard public health and safety;

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have advised that the spread of the disease from person to person is caused in part by respiratory droplets produced by infected persons and spread, e.g., via respiration, coughing or sneezing, and that people potentially can spread the disease even before they experience symptoms; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Somerville is the most densely populated City in the Commonwealth, and the risk of COVID-19 transmission remains an imminent threat; and

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**WHEREAS**, after several months of distribution of vaccines to protect against COVID-19, the City of Somerville has seen a sustained decrease in its 14-day moving daily incidence rate and a sustained decrease in its weekly positivity rate;

The Mayor and the Board of Health, pursuant to MGL c. 111 §§ 95-105, 310 CMR 11.05, 105 CMR 300.200 and all other authorizing statutes and regulations, acting by and through its agent authorized under MGL c. 111, §30, hereby order:

1. The order entitled “Emergency Order Regarding Phase III Gathering Limitations” dated October 5, 2020 is hereby rescinded.
2. Private gatherings of more than 10 people indoors shall continue to be prohibited in the City of Somerville. Private gatherings of up to 25 people outdoors shall be permitted. This limitation does not apply to a business or organization that is authorized to open by the Commonwealth and the City. These establishments shall continue to follow their sector specific guidelines.
3. Events, defined as any setting open to public or any event at a venue, club, park or other space (public or private) that is used or available for gatherings through lease, license, permit, contract, reservation or similar arrangement, shall be limited to 100 people indoors and 150 people outdoors. Events shall be required to have a Health and Safety Plan approved by the City.
4. This gathering limitation shall not apply to any of the legal exceptions referenced in provision 6 of the Governor’s COVID-19 Order No. 63.
5. This order shall remain in effect until further notice.

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Douglas Kress, Director of Health and Human Services  
Acting Agent of the Board of Health

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Date: April 30, 2021

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